



# NEWS RELEASE

## EUROPE REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact CPT Luis Martinez, 06372-842-3225, to attend the ceremony

### ***Last MASH in Army to become a CSH*** *Conversion creates ready-to-deploy hospital*

**MIESAU**, Germany – As part of the Army Medical Department's Medical Reengineering Initiative (MRI), the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH), commanded by Col. Angel L. Lugo, becomes the 212<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in a conversion ceremony at 10 a.m. on Oct. 16, at Miesau Army Depot, Germany.

Historically, a MASH unit was 100 percent mobile and was the nearest facility on the battlefield specializing in surgical and resuscitative care. It had 36 intensive care unit (ICU) beds. A CSH has 248 beds, both intensive care and intermediate care beds. Only the core of the hospital and 44 of the beds are 100 percent mobile. A CSH also has organic capabilities that include primary and other specialty care in addition to the surgical and resuscitative capabilities of a MASH unit. The MASH to CSH conversion includes modernizing the equipment and capabilities to meet today's demands of the military healthcare system. A CSH retains the compactness and ability to rapidly deploy, an important feature that reflects the Department of Defense's transformation to brigade combat teams.

The 212<sup>th</sup> is part of the 30<sup>th</sup> Medical-Brigade-Heidelberg, the deployable unit under the Europe Regional Medical Command.

"MASH" became a common term in the in the 1970s when Dr. Richard Hornberger wrote a fictional account of his time spent in the 8055<sup>th</sup> MASH in Korea. The book became a movie and a television series. The series was one of the most popular in television history, lasting 11 years. Who can forget Capt. Hawkeye Pierce or Maj. "Hotlips" Houlihan of the 4077<sup>th</sup> MASH?

The 212<sup>th</sup> MASH may not be as famous as the 4077<sup>th</sup>, but the 212<sup>th</sup> has a long and distinguished history. Dating back to the World War I, it served U.S. combat forces on the fields of battle from Europe to Asia.

Constituted on Dec. 28, 1917 and assigned duty with the National Army as Evacuation Hospital #12, the unit first saw World War I action in St. Mihiel, France, acquiring its first campaign streamer.

Reconstituted in Nov. 1936 as the 12<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital, the unit was ordered to active service in Aug. 1942. During World War II, the hospital provided battlefield surgical care in Europe from the beaches of Normandy until the fall of Berlin, earning a Meritorious Unit Citation and four campaign streamers.

Called upon again in 1966, the unit deployed to Vietnam where it served until 1970, participating in eleven campaigns and receiving three Meritorious Unit Citations. The unit was inactivated in Dec. 1970 at Fort Lewis, Wash. It was later reactivated at Heidelberg, Germany in Jan. 1983, and then re-stationed at Wiesbaden Air Base in June 1985.

In the fall of 1990, in support on VII Corps forces in Europe, the hospital deployed to Saudi Arabia, participating in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and earning the Defense of Saudi Arabia and the Liberation of Kuwait Streamers. In Jan. 1992, the 12<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital was re-designated as the 212<sup>th</sup> Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). In the fall of 1992, the 212<sup>th</sup> MASH deployed as the first U.S. military force to the war-torn Republic of Yugoslavia in direct support of the United Nations Protection Forces where it earned the Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation.

The 212<sup>th</sup> MASH deployed in Dec. 1995 to support Task Force Eagle in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. The 212<sup>th</sup> was the only U.S. combat hospital deployed to Bosnia to support Task Force Eagle, for which it received the Army Superior Unit Award.

In April 1999, the 212<sup>th</sup> MASH deployed to Albania to support Operation Allied Forge, and moved to Macedonia to support the initial entry force going into Kosovo. Nine months later, in March 2000, the 212<sup>th</sup> deployed to Kosovo to support Task Force Falcon and NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR).

The 212<sup>th</sup> relocated to Miesau Army Depot in Aug. 2000 to take advantage of the efficiencies gained by collocating with Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and to improve services to U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) Soldiers.

Operation Iraqi Freedom presented another opportunity to provide health care to Soldiers. In Feb. 2003, the 212<sup>th</sup> MASH deployed and was the first Army hospital in Iraq and the only hospital in V Corps' area of operations during the first 19 days of combat operations. The 212<sup>th</sup> MASH received "mission complete" redeployment orders in May 2003 and redeployed to Germany.

In Sept. 2005, the 212<sup>th</sup> MASH deployed to Angola, Africa as a joint medical task force participating in MedFlag 2005, a combined military exercise and humanitarian mission sponsored by European Command (EUCOM). The MASH conducted mass casualty response training with the Angolan military, provided care to the civilian population in remote villages, and distributed \$200,000 of humanitarian assistance medical equipment to several clinics. During this two-week exercise, the 212<sup>th</sup> MASH took care of more than 1,700 patients and performed 191 surgeries.

Less than three weeks after returning from Angola, the 212<sup>th</sup> MASH deployed in Oct. 2005 to Pakistan after an earthquake killed more than 70,000 people. Task Force 212<sup>th</sup> MASH treated more than 20,000 casualties, performed 425 surgeries, and admitted over 500 patients during the four-month of assistance. The United States and Pakistan worked together for a common, humanitarian goal during this historic mission.

The Soldiers assigned to present and past organizations that make up the 212<sup>th</sup> MASH saved thousands of lives on countless battlefields. It is the most decorated tactical hospital in the Active Army. The converted 212th CSH will be the newest deployable hospital to join the ranks of the United States Army.